PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT U.S. Application No.:

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the present title with the following amended title:

TERTIARY BLOCK TRIBLOCK COPOLYMER, PROCESS METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE SAME, AND BIOCOMPATIBLE MATERIAL

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 6 with the following amended paragraph:

According to the present invention, there is also provided a A¹-B-A² triblock copolymer represented by the formula (1):

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
H = \begin{cases}
0 & \text{if } R \\
0 & \text{if } R
\end{cases}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
0 & \text{if } R \\
0 & \text{if } R
\end{cases}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
0 & \text{if } R \\
0 & \text{if } R
\end{cases}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
0 & \text{if } R \\
0 & \text{if } R
\end{cases}$$

wherein R stands for a hydrogen atom, CH₃-, CH₃CH₂-, (CH₃)₂CH-, (CH₃)₂CHCH₂-, CH₃CH₂CH(CH₃)-, C₆H₅CH₂-, C₆H₅CH₂O(C=O)CH₂-, C₆H₅CH₂O(C=O)CH₂-, C₆H₅CH₂O(C=O)NH(CH₂)₄-, C₆H₅(C=O)OCH₂-, C₆H₅(C=O)OC(CH₃)H-, CH₃O-C₆H₄-CH-SCH₂- or CH₃(CH₂)_{t-1}-S-SCH₂-, provided that t is a positive integer; x and y each represents the number of repeating units in segments A¹ and A², x is an integer of 0 or more, y is an integer of 1 or more, and x and y satisfy the formula $0.04 \le (y/(x+y)) \le 1$; m and n each represents a polymerization degree, m is a positive integer, and n is an integer of 100 to 1200.

U.S. Application No.:

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11 with the following amended

paragraph:

Lactide as a polymer constituent in the random copolymer of lactide and depsipeptide that may constitute segments A¹ and A², is an intramolecular cyclic diester compound obtained by dehydrating two molecules of α-hydroxy acid. Examples of lactide may include intramolecular cyclic diesters of lactic acid, such as D-lactide, L-lactide, and D,L-lactide, and intramolecular cyclic diesters of glycolic acid, such as glycolide. These glycolides—lactides provide physical cross-linking points in self-assembly of the triblock copolymers. Since glycolides—lactides have various crystallinity, the hydrolyzability and mechanical strength of the triblock copolymer may be controlled by using single glycolide or combining a plurality of glycolides—lactides of different crystallinity. In this way, the in vivo structural stability and biostability of the triblock copolymer may be adapted to the intended application. L-lactide is

Please replace the last paragraph on page 26 with the following amended paragraph:

Referential Example 1-1

preferred as lactide for its availability.

A polylactide-PEG-polylactide A¹-B-A² triblock copolymer was obtained in the same way as in Example-1 1-1, except that the amount of L-lactide was 0.805 g, and depsipeptide was not used. The obtained copolymer was subjected to the various measurements. The results are shown in Table 1.

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